

Skilful approach suited us says Cantwell

PETERBOROUGH United manager Noel Cantwell, the former West Ham and Manchester United player, expressed surprise at Wycombe Wanderers' skilful approach to Saturday's F.A. Cup second round tie, after the game (writes Stuart Earp).

"Wycombe were a good amateur side, but I was surprised they did not pressurise us more than they did. I expected them to be far more physical. They weren't like Bishop's

Stortford whom we met last season in the Cup, Stortford were much more ruthless. Wycombe were undoubtedly more skilful, but this suited us down to the ground.

"When Wycombe scored just on half time it should have given them a psychological lift, but we picked ourselves up well and Wycombe didn't trouble us much after that."

Mr. Cantwell said he anticipated more of a threat from midfield, especially Larry Pritchard. "We were worried about this player before the match and were thinking of putting a marker on him throughout the game. In the end we decided against it and fortunately it worked out for us."

I asked the Peterborough boss how Wycombe, on Saturday's

showing, would fare in the Fourth Division.

"With respect to Wycombe, I don't think they compare with any of the sides we have met in league matches this season," he replied. "I think they would definitely struggle away from home."

On the subject of Wycombe's sloping pitch which was given a good deal of publici-

ty before Saturday's game, Mr. Cantwell said, "Our skipper John Cozens had played at Wycombe before and he warned us about the slope. But we had a good look at it before the tie and were well prepared. We certainly weren't afraid of it and if the result had gone the other way, we wouldn't have used it as an excuse."

Mr. Cantwell singled out three Wycombe players for praise — Mick Holfield, Terry Reardon and Roger Grant, although like Pritchard, he expected more of a threat from the latter.



Tony Horseman lunges for the ball but fails to connect in the first half at Loakes Park.